

REMARKS

Claims 18-28 are now pending in this application, and have been added. Claims 1-17 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 18, 25, and 26 are independent.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that Claims 2 and 10-15 would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected claim, and with no change in scope. Applicants submit that independent Claims 18, 25, and 26 each incorporate allowable features of original Claims 1 and 2. Accordingly, Claims 18, 25, and 26 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 3-9, 16, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious from *Kamishima* (U.S. Patent No. 5,646,959) in view of the so-called “prior art described in the application (hereafter the PAA)”.

Cancellation of Claims 1, 3-9, 16, and 17 renders the rejections of those claims moot.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from independent Claim 18 discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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